"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

Well, after a lot of effort from many people, we will begin the computerized soil testing program January 1. This means that all soil samples submitted after December 31 will be computerized.

This will do a great deal to remove human error which does occur when the recommendations are written by hand.

This week all agricultural professional workers and dealers are invited in to gain an understanding of how to fill out the forms.

Most farms have a conservation plan written for it. There is a soils map attached giving the soil type (tatum, lloyd, or cecil). If participatns will take the time to record this kind of information, they will receive a better (more accurate) recommendation. The more complete the form is filled out, there is a compensating higher quality recommendation.

* * *

We are interested in the solar heater firewood dryer that is now on location at the County Extension Office. Information about this piece of equipment and plans for construction are available from this office. Cost, if all materials are purchased, should be less than $60. There are several other uses that this solar heater also has.

James Franklin, Vera, has been cooperative with this project by providing the wood that you see drying. We appreciate his assistance so very much.

* * *

There are a couple of new publications that may interest you, that are available from this office: "What You Should Know About Field Dressing Deer" and "Tips on Processing Your Beef."

* * *

Two statewide meetings are set for February 7 and 8 in Williamsburg. On the 7th the Virginia Corn Growers Association meets and the following day the Virginia Soybean Association holds its annual meeting.

We would like to see some representation from this area. If there is interest, let us know and we'll get you a program. You don't have to be a member to attend.

* * *

There is a strong possibility that we may see electronic marketing of slaughter cattle in 1980. The central purpose is to communicate with buyers and give them access to the product. Usually the more buyers, means more competition and better prices. If this can be done at less cost, then everyone, including the consumer, is helped.

A detailed overview of what is planned can be had from our office.

* * *

We have a new monthly newsletter titled **"Market Advisory Newsletter"** that can be sent to those who would like to be on the mailing list.

The November issue dealt with Considerations for marketing--cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans, and wheat. If you would like to be on the mailing list, just give us a call.

* * *

People stay inside more during the winter months and are more likely to observe insect pests such as: the saw-toothed grain beetle in flour, meal, dried fruit or seeds or confused and red flour beetles often found in flour or angoumois grain moth in seeds or grain and clothes moth--it likes wool.

Discard any infested flour or seeds. Kitchen cabinets should be vaccumed to remove loose flour and meal. Indian corn that you may want to keep can be heated in a low oven for about an hour to kill the angoumois moth. The clotes moth can be controlled with dry-cleaning and moth crystals.

* * *

Va. Fibre Reports Weekly Wood Purchases

Listed below is the total dollar volume of wood purchased by Virginia Fibre Corporation of Riverville for the week ending December 9, 1979. Purchases are listed by counties.

Albermarle	9,224.79
Amelia	4,279.02
Amherst	7,585.26
Appomattox	12,094.04
Bedford-County	499.57
Buckingham	13,352.54
Campbell	4,830.36
Charlotte	11,672.09
Cumberland	10,484.51
	2,796.86
Fluvanna	829.63
Franklin-County	661.73
Goochland	1,533.22
Halifax	620.55
Madison	1,108.20
Nelson	9,189.35
Pittsylvania	747.92
Powhatan	2,341.01
Prince Edward	10,219.00
Prince William	339.88
Rockbridge	281.40
	104,690.93

We feel this information will be of interest to our readers in Appomattox County and in the adjoining counties.

Tips to Santas:

Gifts take on new radiance when you lightly spray sparkling gold on the bow and paper.

Spray-paint the outside of a coffee container . . . it makes a particularly suitable gift-can since it has a plastic tight-fitting cover. Excellent for packing cookies, candies.

A Naturalized Alein Theatens White Pine in Virginia

"Forest managers in western Virginia and Christmas tree growers throughout the State will be interested in learning more about a new insect pest of white pine recently discovered in western Virginia," said C. L. Morris, Associate State Forester, Virginia Division of Forestry, Dept. of Conservation and Economic Development.

The introduced pine sawfly, although not new to the United States, is new to Virginia. It feeds primarily on our native eastern white pine, but also will defoliate other conifers including Scotch, red and Austrian pines.

The major reason for concern in Virginia is that in the southern Appalachians the insect has three successive hatches of feeding larvae each summer. this results in extensive defoliation and damage to the host trees. The reason for concern is further supported by observations in western North Carolina, where the pest was discovered in 1977. Already white pines suffering defoliation for the past two years have ½ of their tops killed. The larval (feeding) stage can be found from May through November. The larvae, when their feeding cycle is over, spin a tough brown cocoon. These cocoons can be found on twigs of the host trees and on surrounding vegetation, including grasses.

"The Virginia Division of Forestry will monitor the insect and will launch a biological control program," said Morris. Laboratory rearing of one effective parasite of the sawfly is currently underway and a second parasite will be added in 1980. These parasites will be distributed throughout the infested area in 1980-81.

Infestations of this new sawfly are known to exist throughout the eastern half of Rockingham County and probably extend into Shenandoah and Augusta Counties. The North Carolina infestation has been found to extend into Grayson County, Virginia.

Twelfth-Night Party

Often Christmas is over just as you're getting the holiday spirit, and just when you've finally got all the decorations up and shopping done and can relax and celebrate. But it needn't be . . . after all, Christmas is not officially over until January 6, when the Feast of Epiphany, or Twelfth-day is observed on most calendars. So, if you haven't had an opportunity to get together with friends before Christmas, why not have a Twelfth-night party?

Twelfth-night is the evening before Twelfth-day and in olden times, it was widely observed as the last day of Christmas festivities.

With today's pressures due to jobs, commuting and involvements outside the home, stretching out the holiday season may be a good way to allow busy families a little breathing space and an opportunity to savor Christmas festivities to the fullest.

You might plan on keeping your tree up till Twelfth-night and invite friends over to help take down the tree—after a last toast to Christmas, of course!

You could even present your friends with small gifts at this time. (As a matter of fact, in some countries gifts are not given until Twelfth-day.) With all the holiday preparations over, you'll have plenty of time to bake some goodies before Twelfth-night or even shop the after-Christmas sales.

Norse Tradition

Swedish legend says that the Norse god Thor rode a goat. To this day, Swedish people traditionally use Swedish straw goats wearing red ribbons, to line the festive table.

Deck the Table, Too!

The pretty accessories of Christmas should adorn the dinner table as well as the rest of the house. Silver bells, holly and twinkling lights come to dinner, making every meal a festive occasion.

Dinner napkins take their place in the holiday festivities by being colorful and conveniently disposable. Combined with Yuletide treasures, they set a lovely table. And the holiday hostess knows that without trouble, she can vary her table settings.

'Tis the Season to be Jolly!

Holiday Decor

Having a holiday party? Even the bathroom can look festive with strips of green and red vinyl tape in decorative designs.

Greetings of The Season!

Southern States
6%
FULL DISCOUNT
Pre-pay now through January 12, and we will give you 6% discount off regular price of Southern States fertilizer at time of delivery.
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PHONE 352-7298

Season's Greetings
Holly, poinsettias and pine . . . Symbols of the beauty of Christmas. May your holidays abound with every peace and joy.
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Joy to All
In our books, you're big cheese! It's been a pleasure serving you. Merry Christmas!
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Salesman
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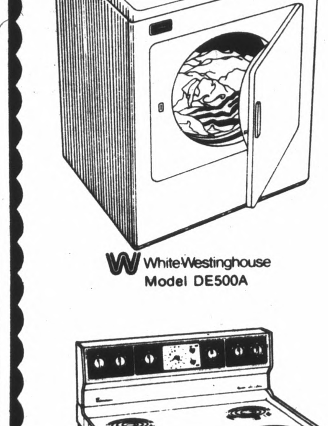

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Christmas Cheer
May the sights and sounds and smells of Christmas bring joy to your heart and peace to your being.
BEST WISHES
Virginia Fibre Corporation

Darrell Conner Celebrated Birthday

Darrell Conner celebrated his 12th birthday recently with a party at A. J. Skateworld. Those joining in for the celebration were, front row, left to right, Mark Mayberry, Rhonda Morgan, "Darrell", Don Goin, and Stan Slagle; and on back row, left to right, Duane Hamlet, Robert Gray, Bryant Garris, Russel Walton, Ronald Thornhill and Bentley Nash. They all enjoyed an evening of skating and birthday refreshments.

Ways of Playing It Safe This Christmas Season

Christmas—we look forward to it as a time of traditional celebration and happiness. Yet, statistics show that the season is also one of increased fire tragedy in the home. Therefore, fire prevention and safety techniques are more important than ever during the holidays.

"Make fire safety a part of your Christmas plans," says Snuffy, the Burger King talking fire engine. "Read through this Christmas checklist to make sure that your holidays are happy and fire-free."

• Christmas lights are a great way to liven up the holidays, but certain precautions should be taken: make sure lighting sets bear the UL (Under-writers Laboratories) label—this means they have been checked for fire hazards.

• Remember to unplug all lights before going to bed or leaving the house. Never use electric lights on a metal tree; metal serves as a conductor for fire.

• Don't overload extension cords. Protect all wires from fraying or wear—never run them under rugs.

• Don't buy a Christmas tree with shedding needles. That's a sure sign of dryness, which is very conducive to fire. When you get your tree home, cut off one inch from the trunk and stand it in water. Keep your tree away from heat sources such as radiators or space heaters which promote dryness.

• A warm, glowing fireplace adds much to the holiday scene. But, keep a metal screen in front of the fireplace to keep hot embers in the fireplace. Don't let flammable decorations hang down from the mantel where sparks could easily ignite them. And, don't ever use flammable liquids to start or rekindle a fire. When the fire is burning, keep the damper open to vent the smoke. This prevents the accumulation of dangerous gases.

Snuffy says, "Following these tips will make your Christmas a safer and merrier one."†

Bible Baptist Church Plans Christmas Program

Pastor Bobby Lee and members of Bible Baptist Church of Appomattox would like to extend to everyone in our community an invitation to come share with them their annual Christmas Program, "The Joyous News Of Christmas".

On Sunday, December 23, 1979, starting at 7 p.m., the young people will present a program, "Jesus, The Light Of The World". Following their program, the choir, under the direction of Mrs. Cindy G. Thomas, will present "The Joyous News Of Christmas", a Christmas Cantata by Joe E. Parks.

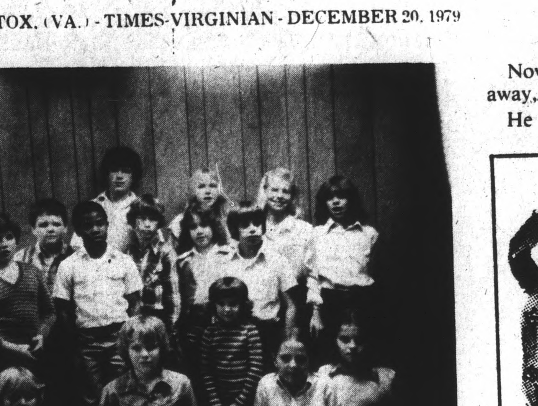
The theme of this Cantata by Parks has been well chosen, for the Christmas story as recorded in Scripture is indeed Joyous and it is the news which was long foretold by centuries - old prophecy.

Here is the joyous news of a manager that cradled the King of Heaven, of the angels and the message they did bring, of the shepherds on the hillside, of the wisemen following a star, and the advent of Christ the Savior of mankind.

Come and enjoy this message so that it may bring renewed hope and inspiration for you and your family's Christmas this year.

Plant Gifts

A number of year-round flowering plants can supplement your traditional gifts of poinsettias. Most popular favorites include claypotted chrysanthemums, miniature roses, azaleas, African violets or perhaps a lovely cyclamen or anthurium plant.



Jeff Scruggs Celebrated Birthday

Jeff Scruggs recently celebrated his 11th birthday with a party at A. J. Skateworld. Attending and shown in above photo were, front row, left to right, Ann Paige Nolen, "Jeff", Angela Gunter, Anne Kerr, and Cheryl Wooten; second row, left to right, Dana Lee, Andre McCoy, Jeff Motley, Monica Stratton, John Fedison; and on third row, left to right, Curtis Moore, Jerry Scruggs, Sherri Doss, Jennifer Coleman and Robin LeGrand.

The Visit of St. Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads;
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,—
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon, on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below;
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.

•••

'Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall!
Now, dash away, dash away, dash away all!'
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle;
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight:
'Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!'

—Clement Clarke Moore

Christmas GREETINGS
May the peace and serenity of Christmas fill your heart, your home and your life throughout this blessed season and in the year to come. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patronage.
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